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FROM: BOB GILLJULY, SPORTS NEWS EDITOR
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

7-27-59

RELEASE FRIDAY, JULY 31

MISSOULA---Nearly 50 Montana University gridders will report for fall practice at Missoula a month from today, and coach Ray Jenkins thinks his Grizzlies will be an improved team this season.

"I think we'll win a few games this fall," the mentor comments. "We still cannot be considered a strong club, but we could spring a couple surprises before the season is finished."

A number of questions will have to be answered in the 11 days of workouts from Sept. 1 to the MSU home opener Sept. 12 against North Dakota, however. First and foremost is the injury problem.

Two veteran quarterbacks--Bruce Olson of Missoula and Phil Griffin of Chicago--missed spring drills because of injuries. If these two cannot turn in a full season, it will hurt the offensive game considerably. The same applies to senior fullback Joe Pepe, Missoula, who underwent a knee operation last winter and who remains on the doubtful list. Another top prospect, sophomore end Mike Edwards of Harlowton, suffered a broken scapula in an auto accident in July and probably will not round into playing shape until later in the season.

Added to the injury problem is the relative inexperience of the second and third teams. Of the 50 gridders on the team, more than 30 are sophomores. "Our younger players did well this spring, but they still made mistakes that are typical of inexperienced men. We'll have to hold these mistakes to a minimum this fall if we expect to win any games," Jenkins commented.

Other Grizzly lettermen include ends John Lands, Baton Rouge, La.; Howard Schwend, Bridger; and Dale Berry, Fairview; tackles Gary Kennedy, Hamilton
(more)

John Gregor, Shelby; John Meese, Woodside, Calif.; and Bob Nearents, Pasco, Wash.; guards John Dixon, Spokane; Mike Emerson, Clarkston, Wash.; and John Matte, Missoula; center Jim Johnson, Missoula; and halfbacks Henry Greminger, Alhambra, Calif., and Russ Grant, Spokane.

Top sophomores will be ends Glenn Sorenson, Billings, and Jim Harris, Des Moines, Iowa; tackle Dick Baker, Perry, Iowa; guards Floyd Bethke, Missoula; and Larry Beddes, Billings; center Gary Schwertfeger, Milwaukee, Wisc.; quarterback Bob O'Billovich, Butte; halfbacks Jim Grasky, Miles City; Tony Ramos, Lawrence, Mass., and Paul Gustafson, Vancouver, B.C.; and fullbacks Clyde Gossert, Boulder, Colo.; Gary Smith, Whitefish, and Gary Ekegren, Harlem.

Following the North Dakota opener, the Grizzlies travel to Billings for their traditional Midland Roundtable game with Wyoming Sept. 19. After an open date, the Silvertips take on five straight Skyline opponents--BYU Oct. 3 at Provo, Denver Oct. 10 at Missoula, Utah State Oct. 17 at Logan, New Mexico Oct. 24 at Missoula, and Colorado State Oct. 31 at Missoula. The Colorado State tussle will be the MSU Homecoming.

The Grizzlies close out the season with two traditional games against non-conference foes. They meet Montana State at Bozeman Nov. 7 and then travel to Moscow, Idaho, to meet the Idaho Vandals on Nov. 21.

Grizzly freshmen have two games on the slate so far. They meet the Montana State College Bobkittens in an afternoon tussle Oct. 17 at Butte, then travel to Provo, Utah, to play the BYU freshmen Nov. 7.

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SILVERTIP SLANTS.....

Pierre Roberts, a 1948 MSU graduate and former Missoula city recreation director, has accepted a position as athletic director at Ashland, Ore., high school.....Bob Alkire, another University graduate currently on the sports staff of Associated Press in Salt Lake City, was a Missoula vacation visitor last week and also was entered in the Montana golf tournament.....Smallest man on the Grizzly grid squad this fall will be sophomore guard Jack Rudio of Helena, 5-8 and 174 pounds. Largest will be senior tackle Gary Kennedy, 6-5 and 235 pounds.

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